leading to the location of the shops and the detection of the offenders. The Member said that the Government might follow the licensing policy recently enunciated by the Madras Government and that was, (1) to open no liquor shops in places with a population of less than 2,500 inhabitants excluding Estate labour, (2) whenever application was made for an outlying shop, to order that it should be made through the local Planters' Association and (3) to abolish all special licenses or concessions for the sale of liquor on market or festival days, and to restrict or prohibit sales on those occasions under regular licenses at the towns.

The Member, in conclusion, assured the Government that the local Planting Associations had the welfare of their Districts and inhabitants at heart and could be trusted not to refuse to recommend to Government the granting of licenses where necessary and they felt that, to the benefit of the cooly population and in the interests of the department, Government could decrease the illicit traffic and increase the revenue, with the co-operation of their Associations. They were prepared to give their fullest support to any policy of Government tending to remove the difficulties complained of and to regulate the traffic in the Planting Districts.

Dewan's reply.—The Member's suggestions will be forwarded to the Excise Commissioner for report.

20. Need for amending the Tobacco Rules dated 5th July 1913.

Mr. Nainan Aippu (Member, Trading Classes, Kottayam) explained the procedure followed in weighing tobacco for realising *melabhom* and submitted that the second weighment in the bankshall was practically useless. There would be no grievance if *melabhom* was charged on the weight actually found at the time of paying the same. But that was not the case. The Member, therefore, prayed that sections 21 and 28 of the Tobacco Rules dated 5th July 1913 be amended, so that the duty due on bales of tobacco be always levied on the weight actually found at the time of paying the *melabhom*.

Under clause xiii of Section 33 of the Rules, Coimbatore and Tinnevelly tobacco bonded in a bankshall should pay godown rent at the rate of one and a half annas per bale for one official Malayalam month or any fraction thereof. The above provision did not bring in any advantage to the merchants as was intended by the Government. The Member, therefore, suggested that, as before, a rent of two annas might be charged on each bale of Coimbatore and Tinnevelly tobacco bonded in a bankshall.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

21. Suggestions for the development of trade.

Mr. K. Koshi (Member, Trading Classes, Alleppey) said that, in Travancore, trade was only in its infancy and it was regrettable that the Government were not taking active steps for promoting the welfare of the trader. As it was highly necessary that the condition of trade should be improved substantially, with a view to the well-being of the traders in particular and of the State in general, the Member made the following proposals for the early and sympathetic consideration of Government:—

(1) A State Bank should be established with a view to help the commercial population of the State.

(2) A Chamber of Commerce calculated to promote the interests of trade should also be started on the lines of the one established in Mysore.

(3) In view to secure the maximum prices for the commodities exported from the State, the Government should appoint commercial representatives in such big centres as London, Bombay, &c., and recover the expenses on that account by levying a small commission from the merchants who carried on trade with those centres.

(4) The facilities for trade in the Alleppey Port should be enhanced in the following ways:—

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